

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 SY-05 EUR-12 FBIE-00 USSS-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15 /051 W

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R 121430Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1129

S E C R E T QUITO 5684

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS COL ARG

SUBJ: COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR'S REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
OF SELF-STYLED ARGENTINE TERRORIST

1. THE COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR ASKED ME FOR ASSISTANCE
IN OBTAINING INFORMATION ON RODOLFO AUGUSTO CORTESE-WEIGEL.
CORTESE, WHO CLAIMS TO BE ARGENTINE, WAS ARRESTED RECENTLY
IN GUAYAQUIL AS AN ILLEGAL ALIEN AND FOR OTHER CRIMES.
HE CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN A BODYGUARD OF FORMER PRESIDENT
MARIA ESTELA PERON, AS WELL AS A MEMBER OF THE RIGHT-WING
AAA TERRORIST GROUP. HAS BEEN 6-8 MONTHS IN ECUADOR.

2. CORTESE CLAIMS TO HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF WHEREABOUTS OF
THE SWISS CONSUL IN CALI (FNU) LEUPIN, WHO WAS KIDNAPPED
TWO YEARS AGO. IN EXCHANGE FOR DROPPING OF THE ECUADOREAN
CHARGES AGAINST HIM AND RESIDENCE IN COLOMBIA, CORTESE HAS
OFFERED TO "DELIVER" LEUPIN TO THE COLOMBIANS. HE ALSO
CLAIMS TO HAVE EXTENSIVE KNOWLEDGE ON GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES
IN COLOMBIA. OTHERWISE, CORTESE IS TO BE DEPORTED TO
ARGENTINA.

3. CORTESE SAYS HIS FATHER, FROM WHO HE IS ESTRANGED,
IS LT. COL. RODOLFO MARIO CORTESE-WEIGEL WHO, HE SAYS,
IS ON ACTIVE DUTY IN THE COMANDO GENERAL DEL EJERCITO,
ADDRESS: DEPTO. 303011 OCTAVO PISO, JEFATURA NO. 1,
BUENOS ARIES.

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4. THE COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR IS RELUCTANT TO ASK THE LOCAL ARGENTINE EMBASSY FOR INFORMATION BECAUSE "LATINS TALK TOO MUCH" AND BECAUSE THE GOA MIGHT NOT BE WILLING TO COOPERATE IN VIEW OF CORTESE'S ALLEGED CONNECTION WITH MRS. PERON. THE AMBASSADOR HAS ASKED ME IF EMBASSY BUENOS AIRES COULD (A) VERIFY THE EXISTENCE AND POSITION OF CORTESE'S FATHER AND (B) SUPPLY ANY OTHER INFORMATION ON CORTESE THAT MIGHT BE AVAILABLE TO THE EMBASSY, ALL THIS WITHOUT ANY INQUIRIES OR ACTION BY THE EMBASSY THAT IT WOULD CONSIDER INAPPROPRIATE.

5. I WOULD LIKE TO HELP THE COLOMBIAN, WHO IS ONE OF MY MORE USEFUL CONTACTS AMONG THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND WHO HAS A GREAT INTEREST IN MATTIN#NARCOTICS AND HAS BEEN VERY ACTIVE LOCALLY IN INCREASING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE DURG PROBLEM. I THEREFORE WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION I CAN PASS ON TO HIM ABOUT CORTESE.

BLOOMFIELD

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED

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NNN

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